

EDUCATION

Clicking for safety's sake

Students have chance to win a car through safe driving program

By Cynthia Walker
CORRESPONDENT
Elkhorn Area High School is among and six other area high schools that have found a way to encourage teen driving safety.

After 13 successful years in northern Illinois, AAA's has partnered with local schools to bring Operation Click to Wisconsin for the first time.

Operation Click rewards students throughout the year who drive safely and of those who make it into a lottery for proving they adhered to the rules of the road, one will win a car from Kunes Country Auto Group, Delavan.

Excitement is building at the high school, where Officer Joe Kirkpatrick, police-school liaison, has already chosen the student-led team that will be charged with managing a budget and organizing activities centered around responsibility behind the wheel.

Awareness of the program comes in a form of banners and a PowerPoint presentation aired at the cafeteria's announcement kiosk.

Kirkpatrick said it's updated daily, so students can get involved in the events and see how they can qualify to win the car.

"The initial pre-signup seat belt survey has already been completed by team leaders," said Kirkpatrick. "Out of 181 vehicles surveyed, 22 were not seat belted. That means that 88 percent of the students had their seatbelts on as they entered the school grounds."

Operation Click officials want that figure to go up during the year and get as close to 100 percent as possible.

Four surveys are completed throughout the school year and are mandatory requirements of the program.

The EAHS team will also have the opportunity to request the use of equipment loaned out by Operation Click and AAA for their special promo events.

Click offers golf carts that include Fatal Vision goggles and Fatal Reaction headgear.

While driving the carts, students experience various simulated driving distractions.

AAA loans out portable Driving Simulators for presentations and events. Students who participate will be challenged with various simulated driving scenarios from different weather conditions to distractions, avoiding a head-on collision, responding to emergencies, dealing with intersections and driv-

ing intoxicated.

Launching T-shirts, passing out candy bars and music downloads are a few of the other options the EAHS team will have to promote the program.

The Walworth County Sheriff's department has offered to supervise the T-shirt launching machine, and assist with the end-of-the-year driving records search.

"In the past five years there have been no driving fatalities in an Operation Click School," Sean McGrath, President of Operation Click stated in a press release. "This is a positive, peer-driven program that works. We are attempting to change driving behaviors through incentives."

One of the many incentives involves students receiving an award for creating a driving safety video published on YouTube. Throughout the school year, the board chooses a Student of the Month to receive "privileged" parking.

A "Student of the Year" is also awarded. More than one student may receive these awards. One of the seven high schools will also receive a School of the Year Award. Other schools taking on the safety challenge, include Seven Wisconsin High Schools;



Elkhorn Area High School Principal Tina Bosworth (left) and Police School Liaison Officer Joe Kirkpatrick (far, right), are teaming up with students Eric Johnson and Mystique Kryscio, who are heading up the Operation Click program at the school.

Elkhorn, Lake Geneva, Walworth Big Foot, East Troy, Whitewater, Delavan/Darien, Burlington Catholic Central.

This program will come to a close at an end-of-the school year banquet where all the awards are presented and one deserving student gets the key that starts the car—and that's a huge incentive to get our kids driving

safely — one "click" at a time, according to officials.

Students who wish to participate in the program must have their driver's license by April 1 and are required to sign a contract agreeing to follow a list of safe driving rules throughout the school year.

Official guidelines and rules may be viewed at the

www.operationclick.com.

For EAHS events and updates, go to its website and click on "latest news" and then "Operation Click" at www.elkhornk12.wi.us.

AAA is the leading sponsor for the Operation Click program. AAA has pledged \$2,000 to each participating high school to be used to promote the safety program.

School Board expels student for drugs

Two others facing expulsion at a hearing tonight

By Maureen Vander Sanden
EDITOR

An Elkhorn Area High School student was expelled last week after the School Board held an Oct. 11 hearing centered on an incident last month of the student possessing drugs on school property.

The decision to expel the student was unanimous, according to District Administrator Greg Wescott.

Two other high school students are facing expulsion for drug charges as well.

Tonight, the board will hold back-to-back hearings for the students accused of bringing pot on school grounds.

According to an incident report from the Elkhorn police, on Oct. 6, school officials received a tip that one of

the students had pot in his car, which was parked in the high school parking lot, 482 E. Geneva St.

After the car was searched, two small bags of pot, and an orange glass pipe were found.

The two boys facing expulsion allegedly admitted to each owning one of the bags of pot, according to the report.

"Obviously we don't enjoy having (expulsion hearings)," Wescott said in a phone interview Friday.

Last year, 11 students were expelled in the district — the bulk resulting from drug offenses.

That number was well above the average from years prior, according to officials.

Training set for substitute teachers

Team Educators will host a one-day substitute teacher training seminars for bachelor degree-holding individuals who are interested in working as substitute teachers on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Alverno College, S. 39th St., in Milwaukee.

The seminar, presented by two Department of Public Instruction endorsed instructors, will introduce people to the filed of substitute teaching by covering the general expectation of a substitute teacher, pertinent information on health issues, successful discipline techniques, hints for working with students

who have special needs, along with a plethora of other necessities. The application process for obtaining a substitute permit will also be addressed.

Along with providing information, the program will fulfill the DPI's requirements for training for persons with a bachelor's degree, but not a teaching degree, and will qualify participants for a three-year substitute teacher permit.

Early registration is suggested due to limited space.

For more information or to register call Sandy at (262) 968-4422, Sherry (262) 968-4302 or visit www.teameducators.com.

Job fair set for Oct. 27

Walworth County Manufacturing Job Fair 2011, sponsored by the Walworth County Job Center, on Thursday, Oct. 27, at Gateway Technical College, 400 County Road H room 112 in the South Building, from

noon until 3 p.m.

Resume assistance is available at the Walworth County Job Center, 1000 E. Centralia St., in Elkhorn. The Resource Room is open 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Browsing the shelves

The Library will be closed on Friday, Oct. 21, for our annual workday. We will reopen on Saturday.

Call the library (262) 723-2678 to register for a time slot for our Antique Appraisal event on Saturday, Oct. 22. Mark Moran, author and guest expert from Antiques Roadshow, will be here to give appraisals on selected items for a \$15 fee. Registration required.

On Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 1 p.m., Jenny Wehmeier, Walworth County UW-Extension Family Living Educator, will teach you how to incorporate more fruits and vegetables into your diet while ensuring that you consume enough protein.

Samples of meatless and animal free products will be provided. You need not be a vegetarian to come and learn



By LISA SELJE
Matheson Memorial Library Director

more. Registration is required; pick up a registration form at the library or download it from our website at www.elkhorn.lib.wi.us/adult-programming.

Check it out
"Son of Stone" by Stuart Woods.

In the book, New York lawyer Stone Barrington has an eventful trip to Bel-Air and a reunion with his sophisticated (and very wealthy) former love, Arrington Calder.

He goes back to New York and is looking to stay closer to home and cash in on his

partnership at Woodman & Weld. But Arrington has other plans for Stone, including introducing him to the child he fathered many years ago.

Lisa Selje is the director

of the Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St. The library is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Retired teachers will hold benefits seminar

The Walworth County Retired Educators Association will host a free seminar that will focus on the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) pension benefits and options on Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the People's Bank Community Room, 837 N. Wisconsin in Elkhorn.

The seminar is free for all members of the WRS including teachers, administrators, support staff, school personnel and as well as their spouses, who are planning or thinking about retirement.

For more information or to register, call Wanda Richards at (262) 473-3021.

Just another random act of kindness



SUBMITTED PHOTO Elkhorn Independent

Elkhorn Area High School students in Random Acts of Kindness Club, Jacob Jankowski (from left), Sharon Helfenbein, Breann Hansen and Aaron Gottschalk, Advisor Carol Wilson, and students Morgan Zurn, Megan Smith and Shaina Loebis take a break from volunteering at Camp Pottawatomie Hills in East Troy Oct. 8 during Super Service Day, which entailed taking down 32 tents and putting the cots and mosquito netting away for the winter.

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